

Summary Minutes of an Informal Meeting on the Training of Area Specialists

2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 22, 1951, Room 500, Foreign Service Institute

Department of State

Participants:

Frank S. Hopkins, Chairman
Henry Lee Smith, Jr.
Matthew Baird, Col. USAF
[redacted]
J. J. O'Donnell, Capt. USN
Maurice Elstun, Lt. Col. USAF

John H. Cornehlsen

Buell G. Gallagher
John Robinson
J. Milton Cowan

Wendell C. Bennett

Bryce Wood

Department of State
Department of State
CIA
CIA
Department of the Navy
Air Force Institute of
Technology
Research and Development Board
Human Resources Commission
Department of Defense
Office of Education
Bureau of the Budget
American Council of Learned
Societies - Cornell University
Social Science Research Council -
Yale University
Social Science Research Council

The chairman distributed copies of the attached agenda on which discussion was based.

1. Maintenance of Area Center Faculties

It was found that there would be great difficulty in (a) obtaining a government-wide agreement to refrain from recruiting faculty members of area centers, and (b) in securing any general commitment that reserve officers or area center staffs would not be called to active duty.

It was pointed out that with respect to item (b) there were many groups seeking special arrangements, and that a request of this character would have to take its place in an overall policy yet to be determined.

The suggestion was made that the universities could hold the area center staffs together despite governmental efforts at recruitment if the universities were given some reason to believe that there would be work for the centers to perform, either through training or research activities.

2. Student Recruiting and Deferment

It was not felt that an agreement could be reached to refrain from recruiting students now in area centers before they had completed their courses. They might however, be cleared and put on a payroll and then trained

further for the special purposes of each agency. If a fellowship program were established through legislation, it would be possible to make the award of a fellowship contingent upon an undertaking to enter government service for a period of years following the completion of training.

The proposed inter-agency committee would probably be given little, if any, authority in the manpower area. The deferment problem was regarded as the most serious obstacle to the SSRC project, and no way of solving it emerged from the discussion.

3. Orderly Utilization of Area Centers

The formation of an inter-agency committee as a clearing house for area training and area research contract plans of government agencies was unanimously felt to be desirable.

The committee would be of service to the area centers also in that "raiding" among universities might be minimized if government plans were coordinated by the committee. It was suggested that the committee might have quasi-legal powers of coordination in relation to governmental contracts for training and research in area centers.

The committee should make a quantitative and qualitative survey of area training and research facilities which would be based upon the Office of Education's "inventory of college facilities," and the experience of the Foreign Service Institute, the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. The committee should also build a roster of key faculty personnel, and an investigation should be made to discover government officials whose area competence was not at present being utilized most effectively.

Because of the classified nature of certain information essential to discussions of the committee it was regarded as essential that all members and consultants possess security clearance.

4. Survey of end-user Requirement

After discussion of agency requirements, it appeared that if the area centers turned out 400-500 graduates a year, they could be employed by governmental agencies. This figure would be in addition to the number of government officials being trained. This latter total was not estimated, nor were estimates for each agency tabulated.

5. Survey of Legislation

The upshot of the discussion was that general legislation was necessary to authorize all agencies concerned to send employees to area centers; to provide fellowships for graduate students; and to make grants-in-aid to universities for expansion of facilities or other instructional purposes.

A major task of the committee would be the laying out of the main provisions of the legislation.

6. Cost of Program

In view of the urgent need for qualified personnel it was thought that the year of field work proposed in the SSRC project should be eliminated for potential government employees, since in many cases their employment would provide field work. With this reduction in cost and with possible lower estimates on other items, it was thought that the total SSRC figure might be reduced to around \$7,500,000.

For the purpose of making requests to Congress, it was thought necessary for each agency to relate the requests directly to its requirements.

Because of the anticipated delay in securing legislation it was suggested that the two Councils might approach the Ford and other foundations with a request for an interim grant in order to allow the area centers to make immediate plans for the anticipated expansion in their enrollments.

7. Priority Status under Manpower Regulations

Separate consideration was not given to this agenda item.

8. General Considerations

a. To a suggestion that the training needs of the government agencies might be met through an expansion of the Foreign Service Institute, it was noted that such a program would involve the securing of a plant the size of that of the War College, acquisition of a large library, and taking away about 50 professors, plus language instructors from the area centers. Research could not be carried on by the staff of such an institution.

b. It was clearly recognized that the government agencies had training needs which were not met by the SSRC project. Governmental urgency, on the one hand, and the need for augmenting the existing supply of scholars and teachers on the other, were thought capable of reconciliation in a dual attack on the two problems of shortage of area specialists and inadequacy of area coverage and training facilities. The distinction between the needs for "consumers' goods" and "capital goods" should be maintained, while the production of both should be increased.

9. Action Program

a. A letter for the President's signature was in the process of being drafted in the Bureau of the Budget, and was expected to be sent in a few days to the agencies concerned for their prior approval. The letter would request the Department of State to set up a committee with membership from the Departments of Army, Navy, and Air Force, and CIA, ECA, Office of Education and Civil Service Commission. Because of the desire to keep the committee as small as possible it was suggested that the Bureau of the Budget reconsider the inclusion of the Civil Service Commission.

b. A principal point of the letter would be the manner in which the work of the committee would be related to the various manpower organizations. It was remarked that, up to the present, manpower authorities had resisted the formation of this kind of committee and that its establishment would set a precedent which other groups would endeavor to follow. The feeling was general, however, that even if the committee had no special position with regard to deferment, its establishment would be of great value as a central point for the exchange of information within the government and between the government and the universities.

c. Since it was thought that the Presidential letter would probably not be signed before April first and since the World Area Research Committee of the Social Science Research Council would meet on March 30, it was decided that a meeting on Thursday, April 5 would be a suitable date for the first meeting of the committee. Notices would be sent by the Department of State as to time and place.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Bryce Wood

MAR 21 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)
Executive Assistant to the Director ✓
All Assistant Directors of Central Intelligence

FROM : Director of Training

SUBJECT : Summary of Conclusions Reached at the First
Interdepartmental Meeting to Consider the Social
Science Research Council Project for Training
Area Specialists

1. Subject conference was held on 19 March 1951, and after a general discussion of the problem, the Chairman (Mr. Elmer Staats, Bureau of the Budget) took the following action:

a. Designated Mr. Hopkins, Acting Director of Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, as Chairman of a working group constituted of approximately eight Governmental agencies, including CIA, to:

(1) Firm-up Governmental requirements for the training of area specialists including personnel presently on duty in Government.

(2) Examine into the question of additional legislative requirements.

(3) Determine the degree to which subject proposal requires modification in order to meet coordinated Governmental requirements.

b. Directed representatives of Bureau of the Budget to prepare an Executive Order for the President's signature, designating the Department of State to assume Governmental leadership in administering interdepartmental interests in the program and taking all appropriate action necessary to resolve the problems involved in its implementation. The Executive Order would also contain the recommendations to Governmental agencies concerned to reduce recruitment activities of university staff personnel which may prejudice facilities available for the carrying out of area study programs.

2. The Director of Training will be prepared to make recommendations to the Assistant Directors, if requested, following the first meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group on 22 March 1951.

MATTHEW BAIRD

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